

HILLCREST NEWSLETTER



Heath Larson, President

Dining & Lounge Hours

Tuesday-Friday 11am-Close
Saturday 5pm-Close

From the President.....

Looking back at 2019, we had a very busy year with several events and many projects around the course. As it seems in everything, change is inevitable. Our team at Hillcrest was up to the different challenges that 2019 presented. Unfortunately, we are in a business where challenges and change are constant. 2020 will bring new adventures and frustrations for staff and for members. The main message I would like to convey, is that with a long-term vision for Hillcrest, a motivated staff and strong, supportive membership, we can deal with most any issue that comes our way. Effective communication will be key as these issues arise and having an open and honest discussion these items will be needed.

Along with that communication part, Warren has taken the time to put together some informational sheets about some of the upcoming projects we have scheduled for 2020. Please feel free to review them, and if you have any questions, feel free to ask!

I would like to personally thank the team again for a great 2019. As we look forward to what 2020 has to offer, we have another long list of large items for our staff and board to work on. As always, please feel free to discuss any issues that may come up with your board members or myself. Also, if you have a great experience, or someone from the staff goes above and beyond, please let them know! We have a great team of people and hearing positive experiences are just as important as a complaint!

Respectfully yours,
Heath Larson





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From the Golf Course.....

I am really looking forward to 2020 and here are a few reasons I think you should be looking forward to the new year too. The planned renovation will be a great improvement to the playing surfaces both on the fairways and tees. Not only will the playing surfaces be much better, but we will be able to employ some much more cost-effective management strategies once the bentgrass is established.

Another year gone by and another 50 trees disappeared from the golf course and we should be able to continue tree removal into the future. Tree removal is often a deferred expense on golf courses because of the cost which explains why some courses are so overgrown with trees. Hillcrest removes trees cheaper than most. In 2020 I expect the 10th green to improve because of the removal of a Silver Maple (not exactly a good golf course tree). Three years ago, I spent a summer aggressively managing the greens at some low cutting heights and more frequent rolling. You might remember the year...it's the one when putting was sometimes scary. Three different greens really struggled through the experiment, #7; #1; and #10. We removed the problem trees around #7 and now at least one tree causing some problems on #10 and I have plans to eliminate one of the problem trees on #1 in 2021. I don't think I am trying repeat those green speeds for long periods of time again, but I would like the option get there again and maintain plant health if the situation is right. The tee renovation is going to make #4 a golf hole again and we removed some trees in 2019 to meet that objective.

New equipment and a plan to streamline our equipment inventory by adding and removing equipment. Golf courses are never not going to require equipment replacement, but heading into 2020 we have eliminated a number of pieces of equipment that we just were not using for a variety of reasons. We replaced some equipment with new dual purpose equipment, and spent a number of years transitioning very old mowing equipment to new mowing equipment. I started the process a few years ago with the idea that Hillcrest would eventually either completely renovate fairways (grass type did not matter) or start aggressively overseeding once our equipment caught up to properly make the conversion and maintain the conversion.

The completed renovations are going to improve the golf course and give the membership a chance to concentrate its future resources on improving other parts of the facility. Event space, locker rooms, member dining spaces, golf simulators, and numerous other amenities could improve the membership experience, attract new members, and outside events like weddings. Hillcrest had to install a new irrigation system 20 years ago and had to improve the practice facility, and it is the Board of Directors feeling that Hillcrest needs to fix the tees and fairways. The irrigation investment needed to be made before the current renovation and the current renovation will be made before discussion can start on the clubhouse for a number of valid reasons. None of the past or future is possible without a supportive and active membership with an eye to the future health of your club.



Upcoming Events

January 11th
Yankton Medical Clinic

January 18th
Fireman Dinner

January 24th
Northtown Holiday
party

*Thank you to everyone
who joined us for New
Year's Eve!!!*

Happy New Year Hillcrest! Thanks
For all the compliments on New
Year's Eve.

The next meal similar to NYE will be
on Valentine's Day. I plan on making
chateaubriand for two served family
style. More details to come...

There will also be a breakfast buffet
sometime in late February.

Also look forward to another member mixer in the
upcoming months.

If you have any special requests on the menu, please let
me know!



Kasey Koliner, Executive Chef
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